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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

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Anonymous Public Comment

Submitter Information

General Comment

As a supporter of the family farms and rural communities within New York's Chesapeake Bay watershed area, I ask that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revise New York's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation to a realistic and attainable standard and accept NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) which is an aggressive, realistic plan to protect water quality in New York's portion of the Bay watershed.

New Yorkers have worked for many years to protect the state's water resources under the most progressive water quality standards in the country. The EPA should revise New York's Chesapeake Bay TMDL allocation to more adequately reflect NY's environmental achievements, be more proportionate in accordance with science, and reflect that NY's water quality chemistry already meets Bay specifications for high water quality as required by EPA's TMDL. New York's state-wide environmental program achievements, as well as its unique landscape, growing conditions and seasonality - which differ from other five Bay watershed states - should all be accounted for in any Chesapeake Bay Program TMDL.

EPA should also adopt the model refinements recommended by the NYS DEC in their draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The strategy presented there is an aggressive, achievable, credible, stakeholder driven plan which provides adequate assurances on NY's ability to achieve stated nutrient reductions. These requested model refinements reflect the environmental protection accomplishments New York State has already attained and truthfully represents the practices of environmental stewardship currently employed on New York's family farms.

The existing state water quality and agricultural environmental management programs have established practices and standards exceeding federal minimum requirements and pre-date any EPA mandates. Use them!